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## TENETS OF FAITH

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### Holy Bible

The Holy Bible, and only the Bible, is the authoritative Word of God. It alone is the final authority for determining all doctrinal truths. In its original writing, the Bible is inspired, infallible and inerrant (See Prov. 30:5; rom. 16:25, 26; 2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:20, 21)

### God

There is one God, eternally existent in three persons; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and co-eternal (Gen. 1:26; Isa. 9:6; Matt.3:16, 17; 28:19; Luke 1:35; 1John 5:7)

**The Father** is fully God; his Fatherhood is eternal and personal. He is the Father of the Lord Jesus and of all who believe in Christ. (Eph. 3:14, 15)

**The Son** is Jesus Christ. He was sent to the earth by the Father. On earth Jesus was fully God and fully man. He is the only man ever to have lived a sinless life. He was born of a virgin, died on the cross for humankind and, thus, paid the penalty for our sins through the shedding of His blood. He rose from the dead on the third day, ascended to the right hand of the Father, and will return again in power and glory. . (John 1:1, 14; 20:28; Phil. 2:5, 6; I Tim. 2:5; 3:16).

**The Holy Spirit** is equal in deity and person with God the Father and God the Son. He makes people aware of their need for Jesus Christ, performs the miracle of the new birth, and comes to live in every Christian the moment they trust in Jesus Christ. (John 16:5-15)

MAN, HIS FALL AND REDEMPTION. Man is a created being, made in the likeness and image of God, but through Adam's transgression and fall, sin came into the world. "All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." "As it is written, there is none righteous, no, not one." Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was manifested to undo the work of the devil and gave His life and shed His blood to redeem and restore man back to God (Romans 5:14, Romans 3:23, Romans 3:10, I John 3:8).

Salvation is the gift of God to man, separate from works and the law, and is made operative by grace through faith in Jesus christ, producing works acceptable to God (Ephesians 2:8).

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Salvation is the gift of God to man, separate from works and the law, and is made operative by grace through faith in Jesus christ, producing works acceptable to God (Ephesians 2:8).

**ETERNAL LIFE AND THE NEW BIRTH.** Man's first step toward salvation is godly sorrow that worketh repentance. The New Birth is necessary to all men, and when experienced produces eternal life (II Cor 7:10, I John 5:12, John 3:3-5).

**WATER BAPTISM.** Baptism in water is by immersion, is a direct commandment of our Lord, and is for believers only. The ordinance is a symbol of the Christian's identification with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection (Matt 28:19, Romans 6:4, Col 2:12, Acts 8:36-39).

The following recommendation regarding the water baptismal formula is adopted; to wit: "On the confession of your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and by His authority, I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost. Amen."

**BAPTISM IN THE HOLY GHOST.** The Baptism in the Holy Ghost and fire is a gift from God as promised by the Lord Jesus Christ to all believers in this dispensation and is received subsequent to the New Birth. This experience is accompanied by the initial evidence of speaking in other tongues as the Holy Spirit Himself gives utterance (Matt 3:11, John 14:16,17, Acts 1:8, Acts 2:38-39, Acts 19:1-7, Acts 2:4).

**SANTIFICATION.** The Bible teaches that without holiness no man can see the Lord. We believe in the Doctrine of Sanctification as a definite, yet progressive work of grace, commencing at the time of regeneration and continuing until the consummation of salvation at Christ's return (Hebrews 12:14, I Thess 5:23, II Peter 3:18, II Cor 3:18, Phil 3:12-14, I Cor 1:30).

**DIVINE HEALING.** Healing is for the physical ills of the human body and is wrought by the power of God through the prayer of faith, and by the laying on of hands. It is provided for in the atonement of Christ, and is the privilege of every member of the church today (Mark 16:18, James 5:14-16, I Peter 2:24, Matt 8:17, Isaiah 53:4, 5).

**RESURRECTION OF THE JUST AND THE RETURN OF OUR LORD.** The angels said to Jesus' disciples, "...this same Jesus...shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." His coming is imminent. When He comes, "...the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air..." (Acts 1:11, I Thess 4:16, 17).

*Following the Tribulation, He shall return to earth as King of kings, and Lord of lords, and together with His saints, who shall be kings and priests, He shall reign a thousand years (Revelation 20:6).*

**HELL AND ETERNAL RETRIBUTION.** The one who physically dies in his sins without accepting Christ is hopelessly and eternally lost in the Lake of Fire and, therefore, has no further opportunity of hearing the Gospel or repenting. The Lake of Fire is literal. The terms "eternal" and "everlasting", used in describing the duration of punishment of the damned in the Lake of Fire, carry the same thought and meaning of endless existence as used in denoting the duration of joy and ecstasy of saints in the presence of God (Heb 9:27, Rev 19:20).

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